

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A cosmetic composition, comprising:  
surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and  
an anti-perspiring component,  
wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise  
water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least  
one kind of functional group,  
wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-  
hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and  
wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing  
polymer particles is 0.1 to less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 2-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the  
amount of water absorbed into the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles  
is 5 to 100 g/g.

Claims 12-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the  
anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an  
aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claims 18-21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 11, wherein the anti-perspiring component is at least one member selected from the group consisting of an aluminum compound, a zirconium compound and a zinc compound.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method of controlling perspiration, comprising:  
applying a composition comprising surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and an anti-perspiring component onto the skin,

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles comprise water-absorbing polymer particles coated thereon with a silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group,

wherein the silicone compound is chemically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles, and

wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked polymer.

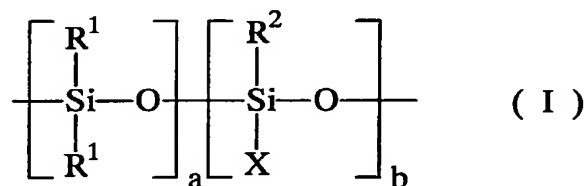
Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked copolymer comprising polymerized hydrophilic vinyl monomers.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles are particles of a cross-linked poly(meth)acrylate.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound has at least one of an amino and an ammonium group.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):

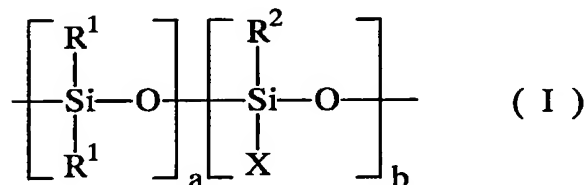


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of  $\text{R}^1$ s may be the same or different;  $\text{R}^2$  represents  $\text{R}^1$  or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by  $-\text{R}^3-\text{Z}$  wherein  $\text{R}^3$  represents a direct bond or a  $\text{C}_{1-20}$  divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary

ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 30, wherein the  $R^1$  groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  hydrocarbon group,  $R^3$  is a  $C_{1-6}$  linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 23, wherein the silicone compound is an amino-modified silicone represented by the following formula (I):



wherein  $R^1$  represents a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  hydrocarbon group, and a plurality of  $R^1$ s may be the same or different;  $R^2$  represents  $R^1$  or X where X is a reactive functional group represented by  $-R^3-Z$  wherein  $R^3$  represents a direct bond or a  $C_{1-20}$  divalent hydrocarbon group and Z represents a primary to tertiary amino group-containing group or a quaternary ammonium group-containing group; a is a number of 2 or more; and b is a number of 1 or more.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 32, wherein the  $R^1$  groups are independently a hydrogen atom or a  $C_{1-6}$  hydrocarbon group,  $R^3$  is a  $C_{1-6}$  linear or branched alkylene group, a is a number from 2 to 1000 and b is from 1 to 50.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 1, wherein the silicone compound having at least one kind of functional group is a silicone compound having at least 2 silicon atoms.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the anti-perspiring component is present in an amount of from 10 to 30% by weight.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the anti-perspiring component is present in an amount of from 10 to 30% by weight.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a stick antiperspirant;

wherein the cosmetic composition further comprises a silicone carrier, and

wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and the anti-perspiring component are dispersed in the silicone carrier.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition according to claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is present in the largest amount based on the total weight of the cosmetic composition.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is a cyclomethicone and the anti-perspiring component is an aluminum compound.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 37, wherein the silicone carrier is at least one of a low-polymerized dimethylpolysiloxane and a cyclic siloxane.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 23, wherein the cosmetic composition is applying in the form of a stick antiperspirant comprising a silicone carrier, and wherein the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles and the anti-perspiring component are dispersed in the silicone carrier.

Claim 42 (Canceled).

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 44 (Canceled).

Claim 45 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, wherein the average particle diameter of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles is 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 46 (New): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the silicone compound is covalently bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claim 47 (New): The cosmetic composition of claim 1, wherein the silicone compound is ionically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claim 48 (New): The method of claim 23, wherein the silicone compound is covalently bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.

Claim 49 (New): The method of claim 23, wherein the silicone compound is ionically bonded to the surface of the surface-hydrophobated water-absorbing polymer particles.